



## Slide for Life is wet and wild!

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**Roll out the barrels and fire up  
some 155 mm howitzers!** *Page 5*

**Forget about playing baseball.  
Toss a hand grenade!** *Page 6*



# Cadets can give the gift of life at blood drive

By 2nd Lt. Simon Flake

Toward the end of National Advanced Leadership Camp, cadets will be able to participate in one of the most important events offered activities of the summer, the opportunity to provide their country’s soldiers and citizens with the gift of life.

Each regiment provides cadets an opportunity to donate blood on the 29th day of the NALC experience. This event is 100 percent voluntary. Blood drive personnel place no obligation for cadets to participate; however, cadets are more than welcome to do their part.

Lt. Col. Sandra Ray, the Chief Nurse of NALC, knows and understands the use and need for a successful blood drive. “It’s

a significant readiness issue,” she explained, “We must have blood and blood available to our soldiers. Blood is one of the ways we can preserve our fighting strength of soldiers on the battlefield.”

Each year cadets participate in the blood drive to provide healthcare service to active duty, reserve and retired soldiers and their families. When blood is donated, it provides a better opportunity for the people in need to benefit.


Cadets are great candidates to give blood because of the physical requirements they must meet to participate in ROTC. The medical service staff screens cadets upon their arrival to NALC for harmful blood characteristics. The screening process ensures that ROTC Cadets

have young, healthy, clean blood so that they have the best chances to survive and excel as warrior leaders in the Army.

Once a cadet donates blood, certified staff takes the blood to a lab where technicians then process it. The staff labels the blood to keep an accurate record of who gave the donation and then test it to ensure it has no defects. If the staff finds that the blood is not fit for use, they discard the test sample along with the remaining amount of donated blood. The staff performs this exercise to prevent the use of bad blood. After going through this process the staff properly stores the blood for reserve or uses it immediately.

The blood drive staff hands out refreshments such as cookies, juice and

other tasty snacks as a reward to those brave cadets that give blood. Even though the refreshments are tasty, they can’t compare to the feeling of contentment that comes from knowing you have given a gift that can’t be sold in stores, or manufactured by a machine. “The most important things cadets get is the satisfaction of helping someone in a time of medical crisis.” “It could be a family member or best friend; it’s a way to give to your comrade at arms or anyone else that definitely needs it.”

The blood drive is a great opportunity for NALC cadets to honor their fellow American soldiers and citizens by presenting them with the gift of life. On Day 29 give the gift of life. 

## Camp completion leads to branch selection

By Bob Rosenburgh

Most cadets enroll in ROTC with the intention of entering a specific officer career branch, such as aviation, Signal Corps or the Medical Corps. But there is no guarantee upon entering ROTC that their first choice will be the one they ultimately receive, because a variety of factors come into play by the time their branch selection comes around.

Following National Advanced Leadership Camp, those who have will graduate from college before Oct.1, 2002, will assemble and sub-

mit an accessions packet for consideration by Department of the Army.

The packet must contain the results of their NALC performance, a DA-style photograph in Battle Dress Uniform, college transcripts, their professor of military science’s recommendation and the individual cadet’s desires - in the form of bullet comments - for their preferred branch of assignment.


A DA-level board meets late in October to consider every aspect of the cadets’ files. The board reviews ROTC and academic performance and consid-

ers personal conduct like student employment and extra-curricular activities.

The files are then arranged into an order-of-merit list and the board decides who gets active duty and who will be assigned to the Reserve component. The Army’s personnel needs for the following year are a prime factor in these selections.

A second board then makes the branch selections, based, again, on the Army’s needs weighted against the cadet records. All cadets must rank, in order of preference, their top six branch

choices. For males, one of their top three choices must be in combat arms. Women must pick at least one of their top six in aviation, field artillery or air defense artillery.

By early December cadets will know if they will be going onto active duty and what branch they will have. By January, those cadets going on active duty can request additional options such as officer basic course dates, airborne, air assault or Ranger school and where they would like to be stationed for their first permanent duty assignment. 

## Fearfully and wonderfully made (Part II)

By Chap. (Lt. Col.) Thomas Joseph

Sir Isaac Newton has been widely recognized as “one of the greatest scientists who ever lived.” His contribution to the law of gravitation, mathematics and science are well known. He wrote his greatest work, as he said, to persuade people “for the belief of Deity.” He made a definite statement of his belief in the Creator: “Without all doubt this world ... could arise from nothing but the perfectly free will of God.” Doesn’t that make good sense?

In all of his scientific inquiry, James Maxwell, called the father of modern physics, made his faith in God apparent to all. Notice his prayer to God: “Teach us to study the work of Thy hands that we may subdue the earth to our use, and strengthen our reason for Thy service.”

I could go on with others in the scientific field

who were believers in God. However, let me ask whether it really make any difference what people believe, whether they believe there is a Great Creator, the God of the universe, or whether they conclude that everything came about by chance? It makes all the difference in the world.

Sir Isaac Newton had in his study a replica of the solar system, with the sun and the planets revolving around it. A scientist friend of his, who was not a believer, visited him one day and was amazed at its perfection and beauty. In his curiosity he asked who had made it. Newton replied, “Nobody!”

The unbelieving scientist said, “You must think that I am a fool. Of course somebody made it, and he is a genius.” This gave Newton the opportunity to point out to his unbelieving friend: “This exquisite replica is but a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you and I know.” Unfortunately his scientist friend thought

that it all came about by chance, with no designer.

John Blanchard asked the question: “Does God believe in atheists?” I am happy to assure any atheists who would like to know, that God does not believe in their atheism, but He does love them and longs for them not to be everlastingly lost. The proof is found in many places in God’s world, including that best known of all Scripture verses: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Can there be any greater or more wonderful proof of God’s love than that? If you have any doubt, please talk to your chaplain. They are more than happy to talk with you, not only to help with stress you experience while you are at camp, but also to help you spiritually.



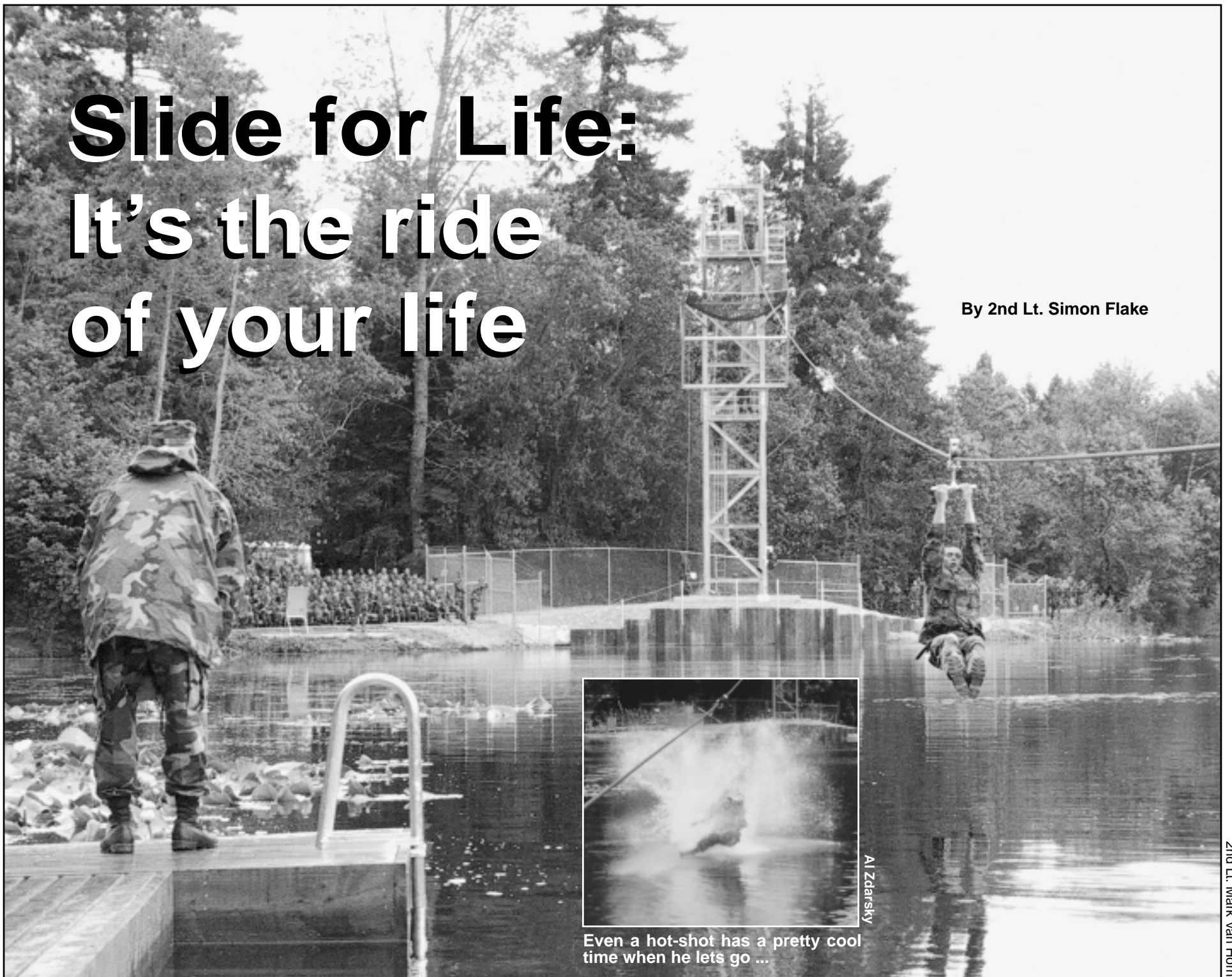
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# Slide for Life: It's the ride of your life

By 2nd Lt. Simon Flake



Even a hot-shot has a pretty cool time when he lets go ...

Al Zdarsky

2nd Lt. Mark Van Horn

The newest training event at the National Advanced Leadership Camp is also a lot of fun and a great way to stay cool in the summer heat.

Along with its new name, National Advanced Leadership Camp has a new event - the Slide for Life, featured in the confidence training section of NALC.

This event gives cadets yet another opportunity to test their sense of adventure. For each regiment, it happens in the early part of camp. The slide is an optional event, but if a cadet wants to be Recondo certified, he or she must go down the slide successfully. The Slide for Life was added to NALC to raise the bar of leadership excellence. It has also been added to NALC because it adds motivation and builds the cadets' self confidence and skill as leaders.

It's done during confidence training and is like an amusement ride for cadets. Slide for Life includes a 56-foot steel tower with a concrete base, 400 feet of bridge cable and a hand pulley. This is a training opportunity that gives cadets a chance to play a role as the stunt man in the movie of their own lives, and is the first year cadets will be able to ride the slide in nearly a decade. Between the mid-1990s and this year, the event wasn't part of camp. The old slide was at a training site on Lewis Lake, located on the main post of Fort Lewis. The Slide for Life at Lewis Lake closed down because it became unsafe from wear and tear through the years. The first one was an event cadets in the past either dreaded or looked forward to. It was one of the main confidence-training events involving water, and was a way to challenge cadets both physically and mentally. Since it ended,

cadets missed out on the opportunity to participate in this awesome event. Until now.

In 2002, the slide returned to camp training. This new slide is at convenient Lake Sequalitchew on North Fort Lewis. Cadets can enjoy singing cadence on the way there, because it is walking distance from the regimental area.

The first cadet down this new slide was 1st Regiment's Cadet Narvo Robinson. "It wasn't as scary as everybody made it seem," said Robinson, "you're in control the whole time because you're holding on."

If you don't want to take Robinson's word for it, the facts can speak on the tower's behalf. The old slide was wooden, but for longevity, the new Slide for Life is steel. The tower has a safety net, four times stronger than its original design, placed next to the ledge to prevent injury if a cadet should fall close to the metal structure. The pulley cable is bridge cable, making it four to five times stronger than its original design. The tower itself holds 150 pounds per square foot. To ensure each cadet's safety in the water, two lifeguards are on-site. Every cadet and demonstrator must wear a life jacket regardless of swimming prowess. Marilyn Eleno, Project Manager for the Corps of Engineers, said, "If the tower is properly used in accordance to the training guidelines, the tower will work perfectly for its purpose."

All NALC cadets will have the opportunity to train on this exciting site on Day 6 or 7 of camp. Although

every cadet will have a chance to ride the slide, it is not mandatory. This is an event that gives those who claim to be "Hoo-ah" a chance to step up to the pulley and slide for life. —



A squad of 2nd Regiment cadets lines up for some hang time on the Slide for Life rope ride.

Sgt. 1st Class Gary Ogilvie



# Bangin' out the scores at BRM

Cadets qualify with the Army's primary weapon

By 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Simon Flake  
Photos by Al Zdarsky



As an empty shell flips out of his rifle's chamber, a cadet holds a steady gaze down his M-16 rifle's sight and prepares for the next record-fire target to pop up. Basic Rifle Marksmanship is a primary requirement for every soldier, so National Advanced Leadership Camp cadets must also show their proficiency.

During the eighth and ninth day of National Advanced Leadership Camp, cadets exercise their right, indeed the requirement, to bear and fire arms. It's at Basic Rifle Marksmanship where cadets display their levels of skill in the placement of accurate rifle fire with the Army's primary weapon, the M-16.

BRM gives cadets the basic fundamentals for engaging targets correctly. Before they are permitted to lock and load any magazines in the weapons, they must first be exposed to elementary skill training.

When cadets arrive at the BRM site, each group receives a safety briefing. They are instructed on how to safely handle the M-16 rifle on range. The briefing also ensures cadets are in proper uniform and that accurate instructions are given clearly.

After this initial brief, they are released to one of three stations. One is the Shadowbox, a station that helps cadets develop the correct sight picture. It also helps cadets to maintain that same sight picture to ensure they are consistently aiming at their target's center of mass.

Another station is called the Dime-Washer. This is designed to give cadets a feel for the rifle's trigger. A cadet charges his or her weapon, balances a dime or bolt washer on the barrel of their M-16 rifle and squeezes the trigger. If the trigger squeeze is performed correctly, the dime or washer will remain on the barrel of the M-16 rifle. An erratic pull will cause it to fall off, indicating the need for more practice.

Finally, there is the Weaponeer, a device likened to the ultimate video game. This station has a real M-16 rifle attached to a solenoid-activated computer station and firing table. Without firing real ammunition, the firer can practice proper sight picture, breathing, and trigger squeeze with their resulting shot groups registered and analyzed by computer. These skills are essential before the cadet can zero the M-16 rifle.

Once a cadet has been through all three of these stations, he or she is then ready to approach the firing line, secure a three round magazine, lock and load



A line of cadets hold weapons elevated as they are briefed by an NCO. They face downrange with selectors on safe, bolts open and without magazines inserted. Weapon safety is a key part of BRM.

and fire for a good, solid zero of the sights. Each cadet is allowed 18 rounds of 5.56 mm ammunition to zero his or her weapon. To complete this task the shooter must place five consecutive rounds in the middle of the four-centimeter circle on the target. When a cadet doesn't zero with the initial 18 rounds, that cadet must retrain at the station where he or she is having difficulty.

Sgt. First Class Jesse Johnson, Jr., from Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 414<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 104th Division at Fort Lewis, Wash., is the NCOIC of the zero range.

"There are personnel on the range that will assist cadets in all aspects of rifle marksmanship," Johnson said. "How to mechanically zero that weapon, how to obtain a good sight picture, and how to properly position themselves so that they can aim center mass at the target and properly engage that target every time."


Cadet Josh Keller, from Ball State University, said, "When I squeeze the trigger of an M-16, I get happy. I love shooting and I am very comfortable with this weapon." Keller was one of the first cadets to



Cadets listen intently as an instructor evaluates a shot group on a zeroing target. Shot groups are an excellent diagnostic indicator of the shooter's aim, rifle hold and trigger squeeze.

zero from his regiment, well within the initial 18 rounds. His advice to other cadets who may be nervous about BRM is to, "Listen to the cadre, follow the four fundamentals of BRM, come out, have fun, and enjoy yourself."

After cadets have successfully zeroed, they move to the qualification range. There, they receive another briefing and are assigned to firing lanes. Once a cadet has entered his or her lane, it's time for record-fire. Every cadet must hit 23 out of a possible 40 targets. If a cadet hits from 23 to 29, he or she is considered a marksman. 30 to 35 targets is sharpshooter and 36 to 40 targets is considered expert. 40 out of 40 is considered a Hawkeye.

BRM is the first live-fire event at camp where cadets do the shooting. Approximately 350 cadets in 13 regiments will have the opportunity to zero and qualify with their war tool. As many as 449,790 live rounds will be used for this exercise. With these figures in mind, you can bet these cadets are getting a lot of bang for their buck. 





Photos 1, 2 and 3 by 2nd Lt. Mark Van Horn

During a “Hipshoot” howitzer drill, (1) a fireball chases the 155 mm projectile out of the gun tube, (2) The gun crew from 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery at Fort Lewis, recovers from the recoil of their M-198 howitzer and (3) the batteries’ shells “bounce the rubble” on the artillery impact area.

By 2nd Lt. Mark Van Horn

A company of cadets winced and covered their ears, preparing for the roaring blast of three 155 mm M-198 howitzers just feet away from bleachers overlooking the 91st Division Prairie. “Stryker 50, fire for effect over ... Stryker 50 fire for effect, out,” came the crew commander’s order. Smoke and flame poured from the big gun’s muzzle as a concussion wave shook the stands while a steel projectile sped down range. Within a span of seconds, more than one cadet decided on becoming a field artillery officer.

This demonstration of the potency and power of the “King of Battle” prepares cadets for three hours of instruction in the fundamentals of fire support. For many of them it’s the first time they experience how much punch the Army

cadet squads sit in observation bunkers overlooking the Fort Lewis artillery impact area. They are given the proper equipment to call for fire; an observer fire fan, a map and a compass and receive a block of instruction in radio procedures, target identification and how to adjust fire until it is placed on target. Then the squad divides into buddy teams; one cadet uses the radio while the other adjusts fire and sights in the artillery rounds. Each cadet buddy team gets three to



2nd Lt. Mark Van Horn



2nd Lt. Kate Abbonizio

Cadet Matt Obenhaus, from Texas A&M University, shouts a fire command during a dry run of a howitzer drill.

can pack. Few civilians are ever this close to so many explosions.

Calling for fire is a necessary skill for platoon leaders because of the tremendous damage artillery inflicts on enemy forces.

“Any officer should know how to call for and adjust artillery fire,” said Maj. Raymond Hartman, from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and executive officer for the Fire Support Committee.

During Fire Support training, cadets break into squad sections and learn the strategies and procedures of artillery. They learn about the eyes (forward observers), brains (fire direction control), and muscle (the howitzers) of an artillery battery. They get an instructional tour of an artillery battery and they actually call for fire themselves, complete with live artillery rounds.

The most detailed period of instruction happens as




Sgt. 1st Class Gary Ogilvie

Assisted by one of his buddies, Cadet Carsten Hoyt, from Washington State University, finds out that a howitzer “Projo” is a mighty heavy load for them both to handle, even when using a special carrying dolly to pick it up and take it to the breech of the gun.

An eerie pall of gunsmoke drifts pass the bleachers full of 2nd Regiment cadets watching the artillery strike in awed silence.

four rounds to adjust fire. The first two cadets to call for fire compete for the Super Shooter leader stakes event. The platoon that wins has the lowest average distance from target.

After learning how to put steel on-target, cadets are given classes in crew drill procedures, offensive and defensive planning and fire direction operations. They receive a brief introduction to the strategies behind fire missions during offensive and defensive planning procedures. Crew drill procedures give them hands-on demonstrations in the procedures an artillery section goes through to fire a howitzer. Cadets simulate loading a round and sighting the howitzer on-target using azimuth, windage, and elevation instruments. Soldiers in the fire-direction center demonstrate how computers and manual methods ensure rounds are directed into enemy areas and not friendly ones.

Artillery is a combat multiplier for every branch of the military. It provides defensive fire support for combat service and combat service support units who might come under enemy artillery barrages or attack. The best defensive weapon against artillery is another howitzer. Artillery is also an extremely effective offensive weapon. It’s called “King of Battle” because it produces the most casualties of any weapon on the battlefield. Regardless of branch, artillery is an asset every commander should be familiar with. 



# Tossing and turning can be a real blast!

Obstacle course leads cadets to throwing practice and live hand grenades

Story and photos by  
2nd Lt. Kate Abbonizio

Ah, the long-awaited day of hand grenade instruction. The smell of burnt sulfur, the sound of shrapnel, the tingling sensation of sand in your BDUs and, of course, the feeling of power as you hold a high explosive and aim to kill. The day begins bright and early as cadets awake to the welcoming voices of the Hand Grenade committee. Located on Range 74 of the main post of Fort Lewis, the hand grenade range instructors are prepared to teach the basic essentials, such as proper technique, range procedure, and the all-important safety precautions.

“Got a good grip?” asks the instructor. “Got a good grip, Sergeant,” responds the cadet. “Got a good grip?” “Got a good grip, Sergeant.” The words echo at Mock Bay. For cadets, this is the last step before the big moment, a final practice to prepare



Cadet Warren Withrow, from East Tennessee State University, is instructed at on the Mock Bay range to prepare him for the real thing. This is the last station before throwing live grenades.

for reality. Across the road instructors on the live range get ready for the anxious cadets. A few hundred feet away other platoons are still in class receiving important lessons from experienced cadre members.

The final stage at Hand Grenade is long awaited by every cadet. The live range comes after five hours of coaching. Yet, some of the tasks are not all lectures and demonstrations. The most important skills come from actual training and constant practice. While the highlight for many is the live range, others enjoy the hand grenade assault course, where cadets compete for the quickest time and best accuracy of grenade throws. Numerous obstacles await the platoons, each designed to determine which cadets have understood the previous



There's plenty of sand, but it's no day at the beach for this cadet.



Cadet Jonathan Darden, from East Carolina University, lines up his body before tossing his final practice grenade before the live grenade range.

have a good time in addition to learning the essentials.

Staff Sgt. James Murphy, from 3rd Battalion, 485th Regiment in High Point, NC., spoke well of the cadets in 2nd Regiment, commenting on “how highly motivated every individual is upon entering the assault course, even considering the long hours of instruction.” Yet, it is not just cadre members who notice the brimming enthusiasm. Cadets also observe their peers giving all they can give as they struggle through concertina wire or swiftly climb over the first barrier, the impenetrable green wall. Cadet Marlene Arias, from the University of Puerto Rico, was thrilled after the Land Navigation course when she realized the next day would be hand grenade day. “The course excited me very much, especially after passing land navigation yesterday.” Arias was eager to explain how the hand grenade instructors were so willing to help every cadet, which made the day even better.

As the old saying goes, actions speak louder than words, which typifies cadets on hand grenade day, every platoon competing for the coveted hand grenade ribbon on the road to honor platoon. Cadences echoed and ears perked up every time a cadre member spoke. Huffs and puffs resounded across the course and smiles on cadet faces were prevalent. Whether climbing, running, crawling or throwing, these cadets are reaching for more than the fastest speed in the platoon. They are racing onward together to be the epitome of the Army of One.



The tire obstacle helps teach cadets the value of balance and coordination in tactical movement.

blocks of instruction. Generally, instructors have no problem motivating cadets when the nature of competition is revealed. Cadets must high crawl, low crawl, climb and run to objectives, making sure to quickly align and focus on the target before tossing grenades from the kneeling, standing and prone positions.

However, the cadets realize soon enough this not fun and games. Safety precautions are strictly enforced and the importance of heeding the advice of cadre is hammered home. Cadet Devin Deck, from Western Illinois University, put it best. “Listen carefully but throw hard.” While the first lesson is to understand what to do in a dangerous situation, the cadre ensure the cadets also



# Leadership learning advances at camp during FLRC

Troop leading procedures and teamwork lead to excellence at Field Leader's Reaction Course

Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Adam Carollo

At the National Advanced Leadership Camp, cadets go through a series of tests to graduate. One of those tests is the Field Leader's Reaction Course (FLRC), where cadets must maneuver squads through obstacle challenges.

At FLRC, a cadet squad will perform missions at different obstacles they encounter. A typical obstacle is to get the squad across a gap using just three boards, but none of the boards are long enough to be used separately. For every obstacle there is a time limit for completion. Twenty minutes is the average length of time for cadets to complete the mission.



Receiving the mission is the first step in FLRC. Cadets need to gather as much information as possible.

Each squad member rotates into the squad leader position for evaluation of leadership potential. The evaluated dimensions are based on the cadets' use of U.S. Army Troop Leading Procedures (TLPs). TLPs are a series of steps that help a leader organize a mission into a plan, execute the plan, and refine the plan, if necessary.

The first TLP is "receive the mission." The cadets get their mission from the TAC (Teaching, Accessing and Coaching officer). A cadet is not simply receiving the mission, they are also asking questions to better understand what they must do, how they are to do it, and with what resources.

Cadet Aaron Ramsey, from Stephen F. Austin State University, said, "The key to success in FLRC is to get all the details and make a solid plan."

The next TLP is "issue a warning order." Once the cadet in charge has the mission and information, he or she issues a warning order to team leaders Alpha and Bravo. The team leaders then give that information to their team members. A warning order gives a heads-up to the rest of the squad about the mission so everyone in the squad is on the same page. Also, while the team leaders are issuing the information, it gives the squad leader time to prepare a plan of execution.

"Make a tentative plan" comes next. The cadet in charge makes a plan for executing the mission. Once the plan is ready, the squad leader briefs it to the rest of the squad. Usually, the leader will ask for any suggestions to improve upon their plan at this point.

TLP number four is "start necessary movement." This is the point where the squad leader begins the moving squad and executing the established plan. A good leader avoids doing the work themselves. They will direct specific squad members to conduct essential mission tasks. This allows the squad leader to maintain proper control of the squad as a whole.

"Reconnaissance" is the fifth TLP. At FLRC, the recon usually comes when the leader receives the mission or shortly afterwards. Conducting a recon gives the squad leader an idea of what the obstacle looks like. It allows them to mentally picture the steps to complete the mission.

For FLRC, the sixth TLP, "complete the plan" and the seventh TLP, "issuing the order," comes into play once the squad is working the plan and, at this point, evaluators will see indications of whether or not the plan is sound. At FLRC the leader's plan generally never reaches completion because, either their tentative plan did not work and they had to refine it, or they ran out of time.

The eighth and final TLP is "supervise." This step is the most important and happens throughout the whole mission. A good squad leader will always try to improve upon their plan. If they see that something is not working, they will stop and think of a better way to get the job done.

There is also a second part of supervising - making sure the squad



A cadet moves cautiously to recon the next obstacle before the entire team proceeds to the site.



These squad members are planning methods to cross an obstacle as part of the necessary movement required to complete the mission. Three boards, none as long as the obstacle, are provided.

members completely understand their mission and what their individual roles are within the mission. Leaders obtain an idea of the squad's understanding by conducting brief-backs. Brief-backs are questions the squad leader asks the squads about information just put out in the mission order.

Troop leading procedures are used throughout cadet training at NALC. They are made to outline a process for success. The cadets use them in FLRC and other events and, if used correctly, they will help a cadet earn a high grade. As long as the cadets stay calm and in control while leading, they will achieve success. But cadets in a leadership position tend to get nervous. When Cadet Chris Kubiak, from Texas A&M University, was asked how to succeed at FLRC, he said, "TLPs are how to execute at FLRC, but when you are under the gun it's hard to remember the steps."



Conducting an After Actions Review of the mission gives the squad a chance to improve and learn from its mistakes.



# Tricky terrain training tests cadets woodland wits

By 2nd Lt. Mark Van Horn

A cadet reaches into his pocket, scans the wood line, and pulls out his cell phone. He quickly dials in a number and 600 meters away another cadet quickly pulls out his cell phone as a loud musical symphony of electronic beeps cuts through the stillness of the forest. Cadet Alpha: “Hey man, where you at?” Cadet Bravo: “I’m about, uhh...four inches above the road running through the forest on the map.” Cadet Alpha: “You know where your point is?” Cadet Bravo: “It’s supposed to be right here, but I don’t see it.” Cadet Alpha: “Okay, don’t worry. About 16 other cadets and I found a point over here, we’ll guide you in. We’re having quite a party.” Lieutenants from the Land Navigation committee perform this comic skit during the briefing. It exaggerates typical problems cadets encounter hiking on the land navigation course for two days during National Advanced Leadership Camp.

The course layout remains unchanged from the preceding years - points don’t move. “It’s a commissioning requirement for cadets to be able to navigate successfully day or night over rough terrain in a variety of conditions. As future platoon leaders, this is a skill they will need to know when they arrive at their units,” stated Maj. Dwayne Edwards from the University of Kentucky, the Land Navigation Day Team Chief.

The course is also more realistic. There are no more posted road signs and checkpoints for disoriented cadets. During previous years, cadets could mark road names on their maps. If they became lost, they could find a checkpoint and reorient themselves.

To pass Land Navigation, cadets must pass a written test, the day course, and night course. Cadets must find five out of eight points in five hours during the day, and three out of five points in three and a half hours during the night. If cadets fail, they have a second chance to pass.

Before taking the practice and test portions of the course cadets have three hours of instruction in Land Navigation. Instruction is given in using a compass, plotting points on a map, and using ‘attack points.’ These periods of instruction are designed to refresh and supplement what cadets have already studied in ROTC courses. There are also two 300-meter pace-count courses so cadets can accurately measure a pace count over unimproved road and rough woodland terrain. “The three largest problems cadets have in Land Navigation are keeping their pace count, trusting their compass and converting from a grid to a magnetic azimuth, and maintaining self-confidence,” said Master Sgt. Alan Perez from the University of Hawaii, the Land Navigation sergeant major.

Self-confidence is important for cadets because without it they’ll backtrack, reshoot their azimuth and try and find the point again.



2nd Lt. Mark Van Horn

**Cadets (from left) Brianne Foley of the University of Portland, Damon Goldman of Weber State University and Eric Hunter of Virginia State University, use a stump to orient their map during a practice phase of the land navigation test.**

This is problematic because of the time needed to find the same point twice.

There are 64 points on the day course and 45 on the night course. Before the cadets arrived, each point was ‘plugged’ or pinpointed with the Global Positioning System three times. There are 600 ‘legs’ or combinations of eight points cadets can be assigned. Each cadet will have a different leg. This forces cadets to use individual navigation skills.

The Land Navigation committee also made preparations to deal with the local bear sighted in previous years patrolling the Land Navigation area. Land Navigation personnel plan on using noise to scare her into a safe area if she is sighted again. Cadets are advised to leave all M&Ms in the bivouac area - they are a bear’s favorite food. If she isn’t scared away, Land Navigation committee personnel plan on leaving a trail of M&Ms leading the bear away from land navigation. Meanwhile, do not feed the wildlife.

# Georgia cadets make NALC the family business

Story and photos by  
**Bob Rosenburgh**

It’s an old American tradition for families to go camping together, but for Christopher and Josephine Partain the habit has a distinctly military flavor. You see, this husband and wife are both Army ROTC cadets from the Georgia Military College and they are both 4th Regiment cadets at the 2002 National Advanced Leadership Camp at Fort Lewis, Wash. He is in Alpha Company and she is with Bravo Company. Despite their proximity, however, they seldom see one another because the two companies are usually training at separate sites or stations on any given camp day.

“I’ve seen her about four times since we got here,” said Christopher, “for about 10 minutes altogether and all we had time for was a little conversation.” Which is probably a good thing, since even married cadets are expected to observe the rules about non-fraternization.

The Partain romance began long before this camp, however, so NALC is just another chapter in their budding Army careers.

“We’ve been married for about a month and two weeks,” Josephine explained, “but we met at Basic Camp before we actually went to school.” The Partains are enrolled in the Early Commissioning Program, a two-year program offered at many junior military colleges. Cadets in ECP attend Basic Camp, proceed to their MS-III year, then NALC followed by the MS-IV year and commissioning.



**Cadet Christopher Partain**

“We’ll be commissioned into the National Guard,” said Christopher, “and after we finish our four-year degrees, we’ll have a choice of going active-duty, National Guard or reserves.”

Both cadets said there is no competition between them to do better than the other at camp or otherwise.

“It’s a lot of mutual support,” said Joesphine. “He says I’m a lot more high-speed than he is, but academically we both have a 3.8 to 4.0 average.”

Part of their harmony comes from several mutual interests. While she hopes to become an Aviation Maintenance officer, in keeping with her mechanical engineering major, Christopher wants to branch Aviation and fly the CH-47D Chinook helicopter.

“We go to the movies all the time and like military movies and animations,” said



**Cadet Josephine Partain**

Josephine, “and we like to just go out and drive around a lot.” The love of driving comes from another shared interest in Tuner Cars, a generic name for hopped-up Japanese sport coupes with killer sound systems, custom spoiler wings, ground-effect kits and flashy wheels. “He likes racing and has a Honda Prelude that he’s customizing,” she added, “and he actually got me into cars.”

Christopher said he’s going to buy a Honda Accord, too, and fix that car up for Josephine. The cars are also a vehicle the Partains use to enjoy another mutual interest, hip-hop music. Christopher wants to switch his major from general studies to music production and pursue a lateral career in that industry alongside his National Guard duties. Of course, the awesome sound system of a Tuner Car is a great place to try out the latest jams or just enjoy those already on the market.

“Right now I’m in a contract deal with someone out of Louisiana,” he said, “and we’re already selling record tracks to different people.” He said Josephine likes listening to the music but is also an inspiration to him.

Christopher comes from Louisiana, however the two plan to settle in her home state before moving to the next phase of their lives together.

“We’re going to live in Massachusetts and, after we find out what Guard units we get, we’re going to start a family,” she said. And each of their own families are already on board with encouragement and friendship.

“I’ve been to meet her parents,” Christopher said, “and she’s met my dad and step-mother. I think they like her even more than me,” he added with a chuckle. “We’re flying to Germany to see them at Christmas and he said to make sure I bring her.” Christopher said Josephine’s father and mother like to kid him about his southern accent, and he has wonderful friendships with all her brothers and sisters.

Few people are as lucky as the hard-working, but fun-loving, Partain cadets. While striving to complete their schooling and embarking on dual careers in service to the nation, they are also able to enjoy the blessings and support of both their families and each other. Theirs is a future that looks very bright.